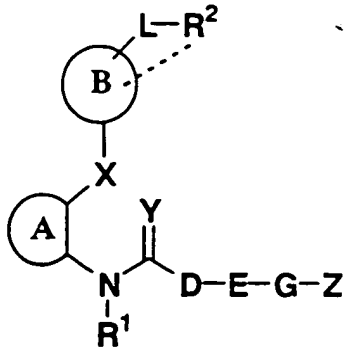
In the Claims

1. (Once Amended) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D represents **[a chemical bond or a]** **an optionally substituted** divalent **hydrocarbon** group;

E represents **[-CO-,]** -CON(R^a)- **[, COO-, -N(R^a)CON(R^b)-, -N(R^a)COO-, -N(R^a)SO_2-, -N(R^a)-, -O-, -S-, -SO- or -SO_2-]**

[(in which] **wherein** R^a **[and R^b each independently represent]** **represents** a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group**[)]**;

G represents **[a chemical bond or a]** **an optionally substituted** divalent **hydrocarbon** group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

.... means that R^2 may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring.

12. (Once Amended) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein **[G is an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group, and]** Ring B along with R^2 does not form a nitrogen-containing hetero ring.

13. (Once Amended) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein **[E is -CON(R^a)-, G is an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group,]** Y is two hydrogen atoms, R^1 is an acyl group, and Ring B along with R^2 does not form a nitrogen-containing hetero ring.

14. (Once Amended) A Compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein Ring A is an optionally-substituted benzene or pyridine ring;

Ring B is a benzene or cyclohexane ring optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, or is a tetrahydroisoquinoline or isoindoline ring formed along with R^2 bonded thereto;

Z is a C_{6-14} aryl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, piperidyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, indanyl or indolyl group optionally having from 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a formyl group, a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, an oxo group and a pyrrolidinyl group;

D is a C_{1-6} alkylene group;

G is **[a chemical bond, or]** a C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having a phenylene group and optionally substituted by a phenyl group;

R^1 is (a) a hydrogen atom, (b) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{6-14} aryl or C_{7-14} aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from

(1) a halogen atom,

(2) a nitro group,

(3) an amino group optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl group and a C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl group,

(4) (i)a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (ii) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, (iii) a benzoyl group, or (iv) a hydroxy group optionally substituted by a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl group,

(5) a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(6) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

(7) a thienyl group, a furyl group, a thiazolyl group, an indanyl group, an indolyl or a benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, or (c) an acyl group;

R^2 is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from

(i) a benzyl group,

(ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group,

(iii) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group,

(iv) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(v) a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl group,

(vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and

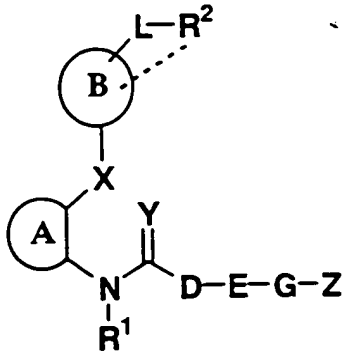
(vii) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group;

E is **[-CO-,]** -CON(R^a)- **[, -N(R^a)CO**

(in which] **wherein** R^a is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group**[)]**; and

L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

18. (Once Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising**:** **[a compound of claim 1 or its salt]** **a compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:**



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D represents an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group;

G represents an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

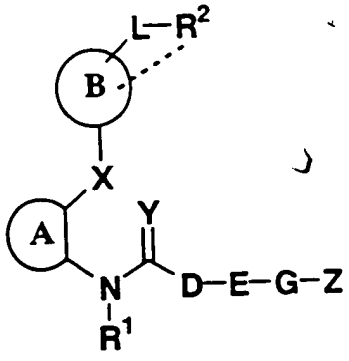
X represents an oxygen atom, an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

.... means that R^2 may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (Once Amended) **[The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 18, which is]** A method for **[preventing or]** treating diabetes, obesity, complications of diabetes, or intractable diarrhea comprising administering a compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof,



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D represents an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group;

G represents an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

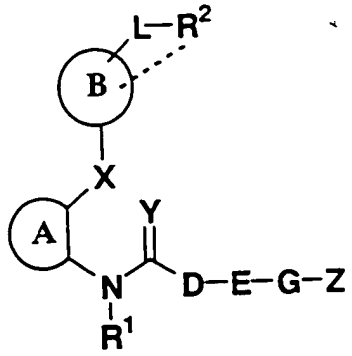
X represents an oxygen atom, an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

.... means that R^2 may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring

to a mammal in need thereof.

22. (Once Amended) A method for regulating the somatostatin receptor function, which comprises administering a compound of a formula (I):



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D represents [a chemical bond or a] an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

E represents [–CO-,] -CON(R^a)- [, COO-, -N(R^a)CON(R^b)-, -N(R^a)COO-, -N(R^a)SO_2-, -N(R^a)-, -O-, -S-, -SO- or -SO_2-

(in which] wherein R^a [and R^b each independently represent] represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group[)];

G represents [a chemical bond or a] an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group;

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

.... means that R^2 may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring, or its salt

to a mammal in need thereof.